

To: Helena Flats Land Use Advisory Committee, Flathead County Planning Office (FCPZ)
From: Joe Ruffolo, Shirley Anderson
Re: Minutes: HFLUAC meeting, Thursday, October 1, 2009
Date: October 5, 2009

Meeting called to order by Joe Ruffolo at the Helena Flats School Multipurpose Room. Notice and agenda was posted at Helena Flats School, the usual Internet posting was improperly sent.

Call to order: 7:40 p.m.

Roll call: Attending: Shirley Anderson, Joe Ruffolo, Marc Hinrichs, Jan Stephens, Pete Burkett, Loren Vranish. Linda Johnson was given an excused absence as she did not receive notice.

Proxies: None

Minutes: June meeting was canceled. Minutes from special meeting held March 12, 2009, were read and approved.

Communications:

-Letter from FCPZ, Jeff Harris, listing ways to assure openness of Advisory Committee meeting. Of the seven open meeting requirements we comply with six. As per the seventh, we will add a copy of HFLUAC By-laws and Agenda & Minutes to our HFLUAC Website (JOE), in addition to the FCPZ Website. From FCPZ, JAN will obtain a copy of "Principles for Civic Dialogue" for committee use in assisting meeting flow.

-Also received from FCPZ was their informational brochure listing ways in which the public can participate in the planning process.

-A thank you letter from a HFNPlan area property owner was read, acknowledging and showing appreciation for committee "time, energy, and expense".

-Shirley received notification of term expiration December 31, 2009. She will not re-up but is preparing a "Job Description" for committee responsibilities. Other term expiring is that of Linda Johnson who filled the last year of Michael Golembeski's term. Two committee positions will be open. Linda maintains and annually updates the HFNPlan list.

Committee Reports:

JAN reported no subdivision activity in our NPlan area. She also reported on five 2009 new assessor numbers. They were all the result of family transfers which are not covered by the NPlan.

A financial report from the land use committee prior to the current commissioner appointed Helena Flats Land Use Advisory Committee (HFLUAC) shows a balance of \$208.90. Land Use Advisory Committees cannot maintain an account for donations so committee members usually bear expenses for mailings, maps, etc. However, before disbanding, the former committee voted account funds be used by the Advisory Committee. Lauretta maintains the non-profit status and bank account of the former committee. Those wishing to donate can mail to Lauretta Olsen at 2820 Helena Flats Road.

Public Comments: None

Old Business: -Development Predictability Map, SHIRLEY will check status.

-Status of neighborhood plan issues. Lakeside & Somers are seeking neighborhood plans which have become an opportunity for controversy. "American Dream Montana" called for investigations, alleging FCPZ mispending and violations of open meeting and open record laws. The County Commissioners approved \$5000 for investigations. FCPZ has been cleared of mispending. Other charges are still under investigation. Planning officials have requested and are working on clarification of FCPZ involvement in neighborhood plans as to timing and extent of involvement.

New Business: -Joe made the following recommendation for the HFLUAC Website:

Members of the Helena Flats Land Use Advisory Committee will have personal email accounts to be used for communication about business of Advisory Committee. Reason: All emails, HFLUAC business and personal, can be subpoenaed if personal email address is used. (SHIRLEY will corroborate with County Attorney and FCPZ.) Committee members will need to choose identification.

-Discussion was held about committee members and involvement in outside issues. Consensus is that as long as a member does not identify himself as being associated with HFLUAC or gives the impression he/she is speaking for the committee, committee members will exercise their right of free speech..

New Business continued:

- Comments were made concerning the importance of the annual letter to all property owners from HFLUAC. Mailing costs approximate \$160 (donated by committee members.) First class mailing is used as undelivered mail will be returned allowing update of mailing list. Printing costs (donated by a committee member) , would approximate \$300 for a two page color letter.
- Suggestions made for content of February, 2010 letter: County status for neighborhood plans; annual update of N Plan stats on sales, subdivisions, etc.; Helena Flats School Report; Knife River update; update on businesses; article on knapweed spread and control, care of spray around water, beetle kill of fir and pine trees. Open for suggestions.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2010; elections, notebook update, annual letter approval, ?

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.

Agendas and cancellations are posted:

-on the Internet:

co.flathead.mt.us/fcpz/landagendas.html, scroll down to HFLUAC (Helena Flats Land use Advisory Committee)
the HFLUAC Website ????????

-posted at Helena Flats School and the Planning Office, FCPZ, 1035 First Avenue West, Kalispell, MT

Copies of The Helena Flats Neighborhood Plan are available on the Internet and at the Planning Office.

Helena Flats landowners and residents are encouraged to attend HFLUAC meetings. You may contact Chairman Joe Ruffolo, 885-6222; Shirley Anderson, 257-2654; or Jan Stephens, 755-1605 with questions. A time for resident input is scheduled at each meeting.